

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kevin Doll et al. Confirmation No.: 9046

Serial No. : 10/687,503 Art Unit: 3721

Filed : October 15, 2003 Examiner: G.R. Weeks

For: **SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING
A SINGLE LOCKOUT MECHANISM FOR PEVENTION OF FIRING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via
The Office electronic filing system in accordance with 37 CFR 1.6(a)(4)

May 31, 2007

Date of Transmission

Kimberly Moses

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

/Kimberly Moses/

Kimberly Moses

(Signature)

May 31, 2007

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

☒ In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

☐ In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with ☐ the first or ☐ second After Final Submission, therefore:

☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☒ In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

☐ Copies of each of the non-US references are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

☐ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith
EXCEPT THAT:

- ☐ In view of the voluminous nature of references [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner, copies are not enclosed herewith.
- ☐ If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.
- ☐ Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2).
- ☒ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.
- ☐ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:
- ☐ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.
- ☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/END0887USCIP1/DLG.

Respectfully submitted,

/Dean L. Garner/
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DATED: 30 May 2007

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Application Number | 10/687,503 |
| Filing Date | October 15, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Kevin Doll |
| Group Art Unit | 3721 |
| Examiner Name | G.R. Weeks |
| Attorney Docket Number | END0887USCIP1 |
| Confirmation Number | 9046 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy | Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | | US 5,692,668 | A | Dale R. Schulze et al. | 12-02-1997 | ALL |
| | | US 6,202,914 | B1 | Robert J. Geiste | 03-20-2001 | ALL |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy | Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear | T ⁶ |
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| | | Office ³ | Number ⁴ | KindCode ⁵ | | | | |
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|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Ar comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450